

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/678,095

Examiner

Hien X. Vo

Applicant(s)

KAWASE ET AL.

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on 10/06/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/06/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/06/2003. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Although the prior art disclose several claimed limitations, for example:

Kurokawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,656,337) disclose a gas concentration measuring apparatus is provided which includes a gas concentration sensor consisting of a pump cell, a sensor cell, and a monitor cell. The apparatus also includes an applying voltage determining circuit which looks up a predetermined voltage-to-current relation to determine a target voltage to be applied to the pump cell as a function of the current produced by the pump cell so as to preclude the pump cell from decomposing the oxygen containing gas component, thereby minimizing an error in determining the concentration of oxygen containing gas as a function of the output of the sensor cell.

Kurokawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,862) disclose a gas concentration measuring apparatus is provided which measures the concentration of two kinds of gas components such as O₂ and NO_x contained in exhaust gasses of an internal combustion engine of automotive vehicles. The apparatus has a gas sensor which includes a first cell responsive to application of a voltage to discharge O₂ in the exhaust gasses to the outside and produce an electric current as a function of concentration of the discharged O₂ and a second cell responsive to application of a voltage to produce an electric current as a function of concentration of NO_x in the exhaust gasses from which the O₂ is discharged by the first cell.

As per claims 1 and 15, none of the prior art teach singularly or in combination a third cell for detecting a concentration of residual oxygen in the gas that remains after the oxygen has been discharged through the first cell; and a gas concentration calculator configured to take in a current signal acquired from the second cell measured with a voltage applied to at least the second cell and calculate the concentration of the specific gas component based on the current signal acquired from the second cell, the gas concentration calculator including a plurality of concentration calculating means of which concentration detecting ranges are different in a scale from each other and the concentration of the specific gas component being calculated every concentration calculating means.

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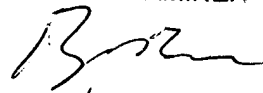
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hien X. Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2282. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hien Vo
03/14/2003

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER


3/17/05